

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 ACDA-07 PM-04 SP-02 EB-07 DODE-00

NRC-05 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

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R 060848Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1415

INFO ERDA WASHDC

ERDA GERMANTOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 11881

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, JA

SUBJ: JAPANESE SALE OF NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT TO USSR

REF: 1) TOKYO 10296, 2) STATE 192206

1. INFORMATION IN PARA 3 OF STATE REFTEL PASSED TO MORI OF JAIF. HE WILL NOW PROCEED TO CONTACT GOJ AGENCIES AND PRIVATE COMPANIES. HOWEVER, HE STIPULATES THAT NO EARLY REPLY CAN BE EXPECTED, BECAUSE TOSHIO DOKO, PRESIDENT OF KEIDANREN, IS LEAVING FOR MOSCOW NEXT WEEK FOR WEEK'S STAY IN USSR, AND NO DECISIONS ON MODE OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY DISCUSSIONS WITH USG WILL BE MADE WITHOUT DOKO'S BLESSING. ALSO, DOKO VISIT TO MOSCOW, WHILE LABELLED "COURTESY VISIT", MAY BE VENUE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS ON NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT SALE, WHICH COULD IN TURN INFLUENCE NATURE OF PROPOSED TALKS WITH USG. MORI THOUGHT THAT HE WOULD HAVE PROPOSAL FOR TIME, LOCATION, AND AGENDA OF USG TALKS IN TWO OR THREE WEEKS. EMBASSY WILL RELAY PROMPTLY ON RECEIPT.

2. DEPT. MAY RECALL THAT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, WHEN NEWS OF PROPOSED SALE OF REACTORS TO USSR BEGAN TO APPEAR, SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED WITH OTSUKA OF FOREIGN OFFICE. HE TOOK POSITION THEN THAT GOJ HAD NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY APPRAISED OF NEGOTIATIONS
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BY JAPANESE PRIVATE INDUSTRY WITH USSR AND THAT AT APPROPRIATE

TIME GOJ WOULD HAVE TO EXAMINE COCOM IMPLICATIONS OF SALE, AND THAT IF A CONTRACT WERE CONCLUDED, IT WOULD REQUIRE COCOM APPROVAL. IT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR TO US THAT MORI, WHOSE CONTACTS APPEAR TO BE PRIMARILY WITH MITI AND STA, PLANS TO APPROACH MOFA ON SUBJECT OF "INFORMAL" TALKS WITH USG. IN FACT, IT CAN BE ARGUED THAT JAIF AND MITI WOULD PREFER THAT MOFA NOT BE INVOLVED AT THIS STAGE FOR FEAR THAT TALKS WOULD ESCALATE IN FORMALITY. IF INDEED JAIF AND MITI ARE GOING BEHIND MOFA'S BACK ON THIS MATTER, THE USG COULD BE CAUSED SOME EMBARRASSMENT AT A LATER TIME. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE WISE TO INFORMALLY ADVISE MOFA OF STATE OF PLAY AND GET REACTION. SCICOUNS HAS MEETING WITH OHTA SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, AUG, 10, WHICH WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TIME TO RAISE SUBJECT IF DEPT. CONCURS. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, OTSUKA IS IN GENEVA ATTENDING CCD SEISMIC EXPERTS MEETING.

3. ACTION REQUESTEE: ADVISE ON WHETHER EMBASSY SHOULD INFORMALLY APPRISE MOFA (OHTA) OF PROPOSED TALKS ON SALE TO USSR.
SHOESMITH

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